

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/917,430

Applicant(s)

RASCHKE, DIRK

Examiner

John B. Vigushin

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 22 April 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 July 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The present Office Action is responsive to Applicant's Amendment filed April 22, 2003 (Certificate of Mailing date: April 14, 2003). The Examiner acknowledges the cancellation of Claims 1-8, and the addition of new Claims 9-19. Accordingly, Claims 9-19 are now pending in the instant amended Application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The Specification and Abstract of the instant Application have been amended as follows:

A) In the Specification:

On p.1, at the line before the "A1" insertion from the Applicant's Preliminary Amendment of December 03, 2001, the title --RELATED APPLICATIONS-- has been inserted.

On p.1, at the line before line 7, the title --FIELD OF THE INVENTION-- has been inserted.

On p.1, at line 15, the title --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-- has been inserted.

On p.5, at the line before line 28, the title --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-- has been inserted.

On p.6, at the line before line 24, the title --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-- has been inserted.

On p.8, at the line before line 9, the title--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION-- has been inserted.

B) In the Abstract (see p.17 of the disclosure):

On line 30, "(Figs. 1a, b)" has been deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 9-19 have been allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The allowable subject matter of cancelled Claim 2 (indicated in Examiner's Office Action of February 13, 2003) has been incorporated into cancelled base Claim 1 and rewritten, with slight modifications, as the new independent Claim 9.

The reason for allowance of base Claim 9 is best understood by the shortcomings of the prior art of record; specifically, Hirschfeld (US 5,128,500): Hirschfeld discloses that the at least one circuit-functional mirror-invariant component (any one of switch modules 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) is a plug including plug contacts arranged in two rows juxtaposed in parallel (best seen in Fig. 4). Hirschfeld further teaches contact terminals (i.e., connector pins) corresponding to the plug contacts (Figs. 2 and 4; col.3: 30-35). However, Hirschfeld does not teach or suggest that the contact terminals (connector

pins) of the first row of plug contacts are arranged offset relative to the contact terminals (connector pins) of the second row of plug contacts by a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the plug. Therefore, *in Applicant's Claims 9-19, patentability resides in the limitation wherein **the contact terminals of the first row of plug contacts are arranged offset relative to the contact terminals of the second row of plug contacts by a distance parallel to the longitudinal axis of the plug, in combination with the other limitations of base Claim 9.***

[Examiner's Note: The above reasons for allowance replaces the reason for allowance of Claim 2 provided in the Examiner's Office Action of February 13, 2003, in accordance with the claim language of new Claim 9].

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
6. Claims 9, 10, 16-19 and 11-15 have been renumbered as Claims 1-11, respectively, for publication in the issued patent.

Conclusion

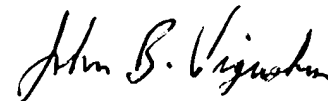
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Vigushin whose telephone number is 703-308-1205. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM Mo-Fri.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on 703-305-9883. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7382 for regular communications and 703-308-7382 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



John B. Vigushin
Examiner
Art Unit 2827

jbv
May 28, 2003